

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-13 remain in this application. Claim 11 has been amended.

Claims 11 and 12 have been objected to because claim 11 currently recites "if such abnormality were the present" in two instances. Applicant has accepted the Examiner's suggestion and these recitations have been deleted. It is believed that the objection has been overcome.

Claims 1,2,3,4, 11 and 12 have been rejected under 35USC §102(e) as allegedly being anticipated by Laros, Jr. (US 5, 928, 16a).

With all due respect, applicant urges that this rejection is legally incorrect.

The present application is the US national phase filing of WO 97/33214. This PCT application claims priority to US 60/012,956. Applicant claimed priority in the PCT and do claim priority to this provisional application in this national phase application. Since the provisional application was filed on March 6, 1996, the Laros patent relied upon by the Examiner is not properly prior art against the instant claims.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Claim 5 has been rejected under 35 USC §103 as allegedly being unpatentable over Laros.

For the reasons given hereinabove, it is urged that this rejection is improper since Laros is not prior art to this application. Withdrawal of this rejection is requested.

Claims 6-10 and 13 have been rejected under 35USC §103 as allegedly being unpatentable over Tilbrook (US 2,418,207) in view of Laros.

Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Assuming, arguendo, that Tilbrook teaches that which the Examiner asserts, this rejection is improper since the secondary reference relied upon by the Examiner is not prior art against the claims of this application.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection is believed to be proper.

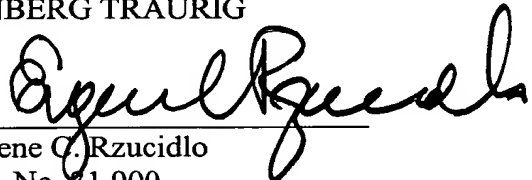
It is urged that all of the pending claims are in condition for allowance. Early and favorable action by the Examiner is earnestly solicited.

Applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

Respectfully submitted,

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